



Minutes
COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
City Hall, 5th Floor Large Conference Room
3900 Main St., 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522
July 10, 2006 at 6:00pm
(951) 826-5427

Present: Linda Garcia, Debra Keller, Suzanne Puffer, Paul Van Doren, Lesley Robinson, Gigi Welch, Ed Rush, Dicky DeLoss, Jim Stream

Excused: Terry Gregerson (excused), Gene Brocsious (excused)

Staff: Jen Gray-O'Connor, Susan Cox, Kris Martinez, Neil Okazaki, Tom DeSantis

I. Call to Order at 6pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes-June 12, 2006

Motion: to approve the minutes of June 12, 2006

M/S/C: DeLoss/Robinson/Carried

III. Introductions and Public Comment

No public comment. Tom DeSantis addressed the Commission regarding the staffing of the Commission on Disabilities. He emphasized that the staffing of the commission is very important to the City. He reported that an analyst will be hired to fill the position of the current staff liaison Jen Gray-O'Connor and placed in General Services Department. Commissioner Garcia requested that the COD website be expanded by the next liaison. Assistant City Manager DeSantis introduced Susan Cox as the interim-staff liaison.

IV. Old Business

A. Universally Accessible Playground

The subcommittee has not met, but will set up an opportunity to meet before the Aug. 14th meeting. Ralph Nuñez will address the commission during the next meeting and provide an update. Commissioner Welch commented that she does not believe that Fairmount Park is a safe location. The Commission echoed the concerns of safety in the park. Commissioner Rush suggested that there be a separate restroom for persons with disabilities. Commissioner Welch mentioned that Andulka Park is on the City Council Agenda and Chairperson Van Doren will attend the meeting to voice support

B. Available Bus Service to City Parks

The Commission discussed bus service and accessibility of City parks and facilities. City of Riverside Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Special Transportation Supervisor Byron Mayhan offered to arrange transportation to the Parks site if Commissioners can put together a schedule. Chairperson Van Doren requested that better signage be offered at the Park, such as Fairmount Park, so that bus and rider know where to meet. Jon Lonberg also brought up the curb problems in Fairmount Park.

Supervisor Mayhan offered to go to Park sites that the Commission identifies as problematic. Commissioner Garcia suggested that a resource guide that identifies the accessible points to the parks. Supervisor Mayhan explained the Special Transportation services. He clarified that Special Transportation will accept a note from a doctor or an ADA card from RTA to designate. He additionally clarified that a constant schedule can be set up. Chairperson Van Doren mentioned that RTA fixed routes may become free with an ADA card. Commissioner Welch asked what the qualifications are to become ADA certified. Supervisor Mayhan did not know all of the qualifications, but did advise that the certification needs to be done in person. He also let the Commission know that attendants assisting the disabled ride for free.

C. Outreach Efforts

Commissioner Robinson suggested that the bookmarks include the monthly meeting time. She expressed to the Commission the success of the Neighborhood Conference. She thanked Chairperson Van Doren and Commissioner Garcia for sitting at the table all day. Commissioners requested that staff go forward with the creation of a brochure.

V. New Business

A. Newspaper Articles

Commissioner Stream passed out a disabilities etiquette and understanding the ADA booklet.

B. Staff update

Staff provided the number to the Commission on Disabilities TDD phone number: 951-826-2551.

VI. Items for future Commission Consideration

Commissioner Keller requested that meeting times be discussed during the next meeting. Commissioners requested that staff look into providing transportation to meetings out of the Commission on Disabilities funding. John Lonberg thanked Neil Okazaki for replacing door handle and requested the Emergency Exit door handle be similarly. Commissioners requested that Bob Johnson be present at the next meeting to address the park concerns. The commission would also like to address the possibility of creating an ad-hoc committee to address the accessibility of City Parks. Commissioner Stream would like to know the priority list for the ADA transition plan for the next meeting.

John Lonberg suggested that the Commission address the City's Emergency Plan to ensure that it includes sufficient accommodations for people with disabilities.

VII. Adjournment at 7:30pm.